

U.S. Appln. No. 09/707,726
Atty. Docket No. 99-319

REMARKS

Applicants submit this Response to the Office Action of March 18, 2005. Applicants have cancelled claims 25-28 in this Response (without prejudice to resubmission of the subject matter of these claims at a later time), and thus claims 5-7, 12, 13 and 18-20 are pending in this application.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication in the Office Action that claims 5-7, 12, 13 and 18-20 are allowed.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 25-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 and 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 1, asserting that “the claimed invention is not supported by either a specific and substantial asserted utility or a well established utility.” In order to timely obtain issuance of a patent on the inventive technology disclosed in the present application, Applicants have cancelled claims 25-28, thus mooting these rejections. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of canceled claims 25-28 in any future continuation application.

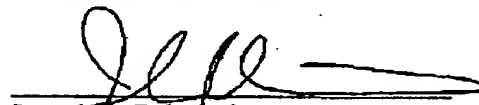
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. If there are any outstanding issues which need to be resolved to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative by phone at the number indicated below to discuss such issues. To the extent necessary, a petition for extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made, the fee for which should be charged to deposit account number 07-2347. With respect to this application, please charge any other necessary fees and credit any overpayment to that account.

Respectfully submitted,

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